

Parkland College

Global Studies Initiatives in Social Sciences
2017-2018

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Global Studies Initiative Final Report: Geography 140

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Global Studies Initiative in Social Sciences Courses

Parkland College, AY 2017–2018



Aims of Global Studies Initiative: Recall that the goals for participating in the Global Studies Initiative course redesign project are: To promote the addition to Parkland’s social science courses of instructional materials on global issues with a focus on the European Union, Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. Further, to provide social science faculty with instructional design tools and aid them with the implementation of new course materials in the classroom.

To achieve the goals of the Global Studies Initiative and finish your participation in this project, please fill out the form below on the course you taught in the Spring semester of 2018, and upload it to the shared folder on Parkland’s One Drive at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ycvjboek>

Global Studies Faculty Project Final Report

Faculty Name: Brooke Ferguson

Course Taught: World Geography GEO 140-001H Spring 2018

Format of Course: Hybrid

A. Goal(s) for Course.

Please describe here the changes that you made to your class objectives to increase global studies content and learning about global issues. Keeping this in mind, please answer the following:

1. Three goals have been identified for World Geography: to develop an informed appreciation of other cultures, to develop an openness to new ideas, and for students to define geography through the ‘5 Themes of Geography’, a concept developed by The National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers (AAG).
2. While the third goal is a bit more general to the discipline, the first and second teaching goals have had content specifically designed to address the students’ background knowledge on current events in both Europe and Russia.

B. New Course Material(s) To Achieve Goals.

Please explain the new material(s) you used for the course. Keeping this in mind, please answer the following:

1. Due to the nature of the activity (a background knowledge check of a particular issue), materials used in the course were shown *after* the activities were administered. They included a web page and a video:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>

Migrant Crisis: Migration to Europe Explained in Seven Charts (British Broadcasting Corporation)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-aiHm_lqml

Political clashes over the migrant crisis turn the Mediterranean into a battleground (PBS Newshour via YouTube)

2. The migrant crisis in Europe is a significant demographic and political event. The BBC article gives the statistics of the migrants, their countries of origin, and destinations. The video helps to illuminate the viewpoints of two sides: the aid groups which are struggling to provide services for thousands of displaced refugees, and those experiencing a renewed sense of nationalism which has emerged in many European countries in response to a large and sudden influx of migrants.

C. New Activities, Assignments, and Assessments to Achieve Goals.

Please describe here the new activities, assignments, direct and indirect assessments, and the new syllabus you developed to achieve the aims of the Global Studies Initiative. Keeping this in mind, please answer the following:

1. Two activities addressing the three goals were created. These include an activity from Angelo and Cross's *Classroom assessment techniques: A handbook for college teachers* (1993). Based upon the goals of developing openness and an appreciation for other cultures, a misconception/preconception check was administered for two world regions: Europe and Russia and the Near Abroad. Questions on the survey which accompanied this check asked students if their perception of the region (or their perception of their knowledge) has changed after completing the exercise. Additionally, an essay question was added to exams 1 and 3 asking students to define and describe the 5 themes of geography. This question will address the goal which specifically requires they learn the 5 themes.
2. Student answers to the essay question asking to define and describe the five themes of geography were directly assessed using a holistic rubric. This type of direct assessment is formative, as it is administered twice during the semester to gauge student learning, and is

quantitative. This assessment relates directly to the goal of students learning of the five themes of geography.

3. The remaining goals to develop an appreciation for other cultures and to develop an openness to new ideas are pursued through the use of attitude surveys administered after completing the misconception/preconception check. These surveys ask specifically about the student's perception of their level of background knowledge compared to their peers, though questions could be structured in the future in a way that more directly addresses openness to new ideas and cultural appreciation.
4. Please attach a copy of your class syllabus for the course you revised for this project. In the syllabus please highlight changes that you made to the syllabus to show what was changed as a result of this project. Please upload your revised syllabus to the shared folder on Parkland's One Drive: <https://tinyurl.com/ycvjboek>

D. Faculty Reflection on New Course Material

The assessments I elected to pursue as part of the initiative are ones I plan to continue in the future, though with a few minor changes. As mentioned above, the attitude survey questions need to be reshaped to better incorporate my stated goals for the course. Overall, I think both the essay questions and the misconception/preconception check are useful to me in my teaching of world geography. The students enjoyed seeing the tallied misconception/preconception check answers to see how their peers answered, and survey responses were quite honest and useful, in part (I believe) because their names were attached to their answers in the Cobra learning management system.

Thank you very much for participating in this the Global Studies Initiative and completing this report!